Complaints of Cotton-Growers of Vidarbha Region

†2763. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers of Vidarbha Region of Maharasthra are facing difficulties due to non compliance of Cotton Monopoly Law;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received;

(c) whether flaws in the laws or in their implementations have caused the said difficulties; and

(d) the economic burden on Government due to Cotton Monopoly Laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of India has not received any complaint regarding implementation of the Cotton Monopoly Scheme in the Vidarbha region of Maharasthra.

(d) The Government of India has approved the continuation of the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of the Government of Maharashtra for a further period of five years *i.e.* upto 30.6.2006 subject to the stipulation that in the operation of the scheme there will be no financial liability on the part of the Government of India.

Impact of pulse imports on domestic production

2764. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the impact of opening up imports, on the domestic pulse production, the cost of which is very high, whereas the imported pulses would be quite cheaper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures initiated by Government to protect the interests of pulse growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship in the liberalised trade under WTO

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.